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**Imagery analysis report**

# **Air Force Upgrading, Pudahuel International Airfield, Chile (S)**

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### AIR FORCE UPGRADING, PUDAHUEL INTERNATIONAL AIRFIELD, CHILE (S)

1. (S/D) A Mirage aircraft, a nearly complete military support area, and completed runway resurfacing were observed at Pudahuel International Airfield ( [redacted] Figure 1), Chile, on imagery of [redacted] This airfield, now referred to as Arturo Merino Benitez International Airfield, is 7 nautical miles (nm) northwest of Santiago, Chile.

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2. (S/D) Chile has contracted with France for 16 Mirage-50 fighter/bombers. Deliveries began in June 1980. Eight were to be delivered in 1980 and eight in early 1981. Reports indicate that three were seen operational and a fourth was being assembled in September 1980. The Mirage-50 has an estimated range of 770 nm.<sup>1</sup> The Mirage seen at Pudahuel was the first seen at a Chilean airfield and was parked on a taxiway near a group of buildings in the civilian support area. Also seen were two A-37 ground attack aircraft, a C-47 transport, and a small straight-wing aircraft (Figure 2). This is the first observation of military aircraft at this airfield.

3. (S/D) A secured military support area was nearly complete at the northwest corner of the airfield complex. The area consists of a rectangular concrete parking apron, three concrete hangar aprons, two concrete alert aprons (one outside the security fence), three hangars, five support buildings, two earth-covered storage bunkers, a security building, and a separately secured revetted area. No aircraft have been seen within this area; however, reports state that Chile's Mirages will be based at this airfield.<sup>1</sup>

4. (S/D) Resurfacing of the airfield's runway, underway since April 1979, has been completed and the runway is serviceable. During the resurfacing period, the parallel taxiway was used as the runway.

#### REFERENCES

##### IMAGERY

(S/D) Satellite imagery of [redacted] was used in the preparation of this report.

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##### DOCUMENT

1. DIA. DIAIAPPR 178-80, *Chile: Military Modernization (U)*, 26 Nov 80 (SECRET [redacted])

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\*Extracted information is classified SECRET [redacted]

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] or [redacted] Third World Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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